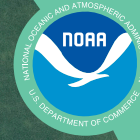


Hello western and northern Alaskan communities:



NOAA
FISHERIES

BOEM
BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT

The Aerial Surveys of Arctic Marine Mammals (ASAMM) project will be airborne from July to October 2014, as part of a long-term monitoring project that has occurred every year since 1979. ASAMM is designed to provide scientific information on marine mammal ecology in a vast area over Alaskan arctic waters to help manage and conserve marine mammals and their habitat. The project is co-managed by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

For additional information, please contact:

Megan Ferguson

megan.ferguson@noaa.gov
206.526.6274

or

Janet Clarke

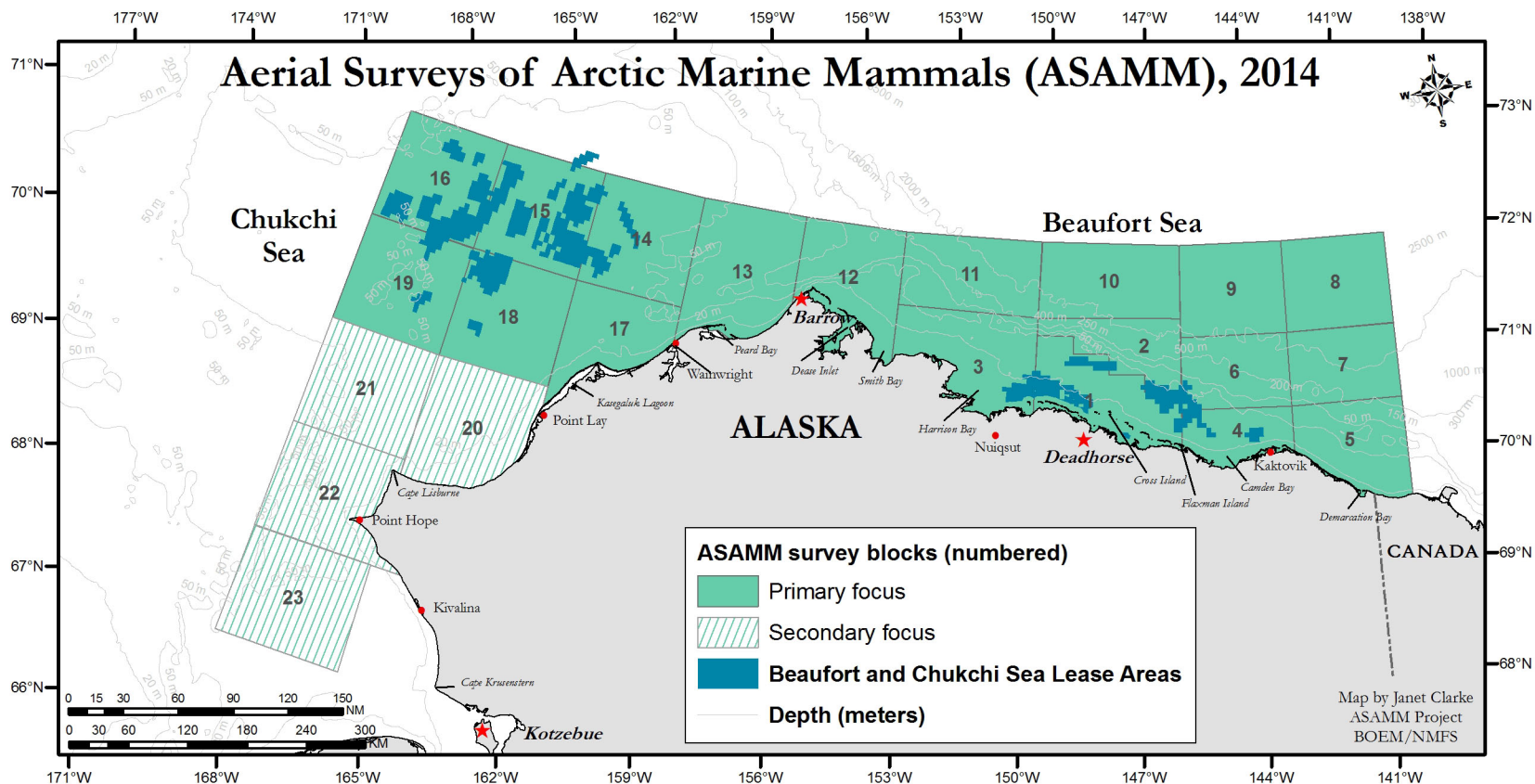
janet.clarke@leidos.com
253.205.1176

Daily reports showing effort and sightings are posted at
<http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/NMML/cetacean/bwasp/>

ASAMM Goals:

- Document relative abundance, distribution, and behavior of marine mammals, including whales, seals, walrus, and polar bear, in the Alaskan Arctic: How many? Where are they? What are they doing?
- Describe the annual migration of bowhead whales, including variability across years.
- Provide information in near real-time to stakeholders, including local communities, North Slope Borough, Northwest Alaska Borough, BOEM, NOAA Fisheries, and other interested parties.





Surveys will be conducted in Aero Commander aircraft flown at an altitude range of 1000 ft to 1500 ft above sea level.

Survey teams will be based in Barrow and Deadhorse.

Effort will be focused on survey blocks 1-19, but occasionally surveys are conducted in the more southerly survey blocks, 20-23.

Survey teams will also fly a coastal transect from Point Barrow to Point Hope, approximately 1 km from shore.

Survey teams will communicate with whaling communication centers during bowhead whale hunts, and will avoid areas where marine-based subsistence activities are actively occurring.

USFWS
Permit # MA212570

Cynthia Christman
NOAA/NMFS/AFSC/MMML
NMFS Permit # 14245
Funded by BOEM

Brenda Rone
USFWS
Permit # MA212570

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